

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 are cancelled.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~claim 4~~, wherein each bit in the bit stream has a value.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein each bit corresponds to a feature.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein a feature is supported if the corresponding bit value is a one (1).

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein a feature is not supported if the corresponding bit value is a zero (0).

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the comparing step ~~(b4)~~ includes performing a logical AND operation between the bit streams.

Claims 9-10 are cancelled.

11. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34 ~~claim 9~~, wherein each bit in the bit stream has a value.

12. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein

each bit corresponds to a feature.

13. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein a feature is supported if the corresponding bit value is a one (1).

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein a feature is not supported if the corresponding bit value is a zero (0).

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~claim 7~~, wherein the comparing instruction ~~{b4}~~ includes performing a logical AND operation between the bit streams.

Claims 17-26 cancelled.

27. (New) A method for communicating application programming interface (API) capabilities supported by a database of a first device to a second device for establishing communication, comprising the steps of:

generating a first bit stream to send from the first device to the second device, the first bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the first device, wherein all of the API intermediary features are not required to utilize the API highest feature;

receiving a second bit stream sent from the second device to the first device, the second bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the second device; and

comparing the first and second bit streams to configure communications between the APIs for mutually supported features, the mutually supported features including a highest feature in common to both the first and second device and including the intermediary API

features in common.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
responsive to the highest feature of the second bit stream being more recent than the highest API feature of the first bit stream, installing the highest API feature of the second bit stream and only the intermediary API features of the second bit stream that are not already installed in the first device.
29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the first and second devices adapt processing to utilize the resulting set of mutually supported API features during their connection.
30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the APIs on the first and second devices comprises one or more of Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), Object Linking and Embedded Database (OLEDB) or Java Database Connectivity (JDBC)
31. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
sending the first bit stream to a third device;
receiving at the first device a third bit stream from a third device, the third bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed in an API of the third device.
32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the first and second devices communicate across a network.
33. (New) A method for communicating capabilities supported by a first device to a second device for establishing communication, comprising the step of:
receiving a first bit stream at the second device from the first device, the bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the first device, wherein all of

the intermediary API features are not required to utilize the highest API feature;

comparing the first and second bit streams to determine a highest common API feature and which of the intermediary API features need to be installed in the first device for communication with the second device using the highest common API feature and common intermediary API features.

34. (New) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for communicating application programming interface (API) capabilities supported by a database of a first device to a second device for establishing communication, the program instructions for:

generating a first bit stream to send from the first device to the second device, the first bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the first device, wherein all of the API intermediary features are not required to utilize the API highest feature;

receiving a second bit stream sent from the second device to the first device, the second bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the second device; and

comparing the first and second bit streams to configure communications between the APIs for mutually supported features, the mutually supported features including a highest feature in common to both the first and second device and including the intermediary API features in common.